

H.R. 2051
as amended by the Subcommittee on Research

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

SEC. 1. DEFINITIONS

Defines “Director”, as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Uses the definition for ‘institution of higher education’ found in the Higher Education Act of 1965. Defines “nonprofit organization” as a nonprofit research institute or a nonprofit association with experience and capability in plant biotechnology research as determined by the Director.

SEC. 2. MATCHING FUNDS

Allows NSF to establish a matching funds requirement for grantees to receive grants.

SEC. 3. PLANT GENOME AND GENE EXPRESSION RESEARCH CENTERS

Establishes a merit-based, competitive program at NSF to provide grants to consortia of institutions of higher education and/or non-profit organizations to develop regional plant genome and gene expression research centers. These centers would conduct research in plant genomics and plant gene expression. Research activities could include: 1) basic plant genomics research and applications related to the development and testing of new varieties of enhanced crops, including those grown in extreme environments and those grown with reduced reliance on fertilizer, 2) basic research related to the development of innovative, plant-derived products, 3) basic research on alternative uses of plants or plant material including the use of plants as renewable feedstock for energy production, and 4) basic research and dissemination of information on the ecological and other consequences of genetically engineered plants.

SEC. 4. PARTNERSHIPS FOR PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Establishes a merit-based, competitive program at NSF to provide grants to institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, or consortia thereof, to develop research partnerships supporting plant biotechnology targeted to the needs of the developing world. Consortia may also include for-profit companies. The Director is to encourage, by means of outreach, the inclusion of Historically Black Colleges or Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or Tribal Colleges in the consortia. In order to receive grants, the grantee must have entered into a partnership with one or more research institutions in a developing nation. Research undertaken by the partnerships could include 1) basic genomic research on crops grown in the developing world, 2) basic research in plant biotechnology that improves plant tolerance, increases yield, or reduces the need for fertilizers, 3) basic research that could lead to the development of technologies to produce vaccine and pharmaceutical products in plants grown in the developing world, and 4) research on the social, political, economic, and environmental impact of plant biotechnology in the developing world.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Authorizes \$9 million for FY 2002, \$13.5 million for FY 2003, and \$13.5 million for FY 2004 to carry out the Act.